KEIZOKU-SCANS
...and the manga goes on
DO NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC!

Cantarella

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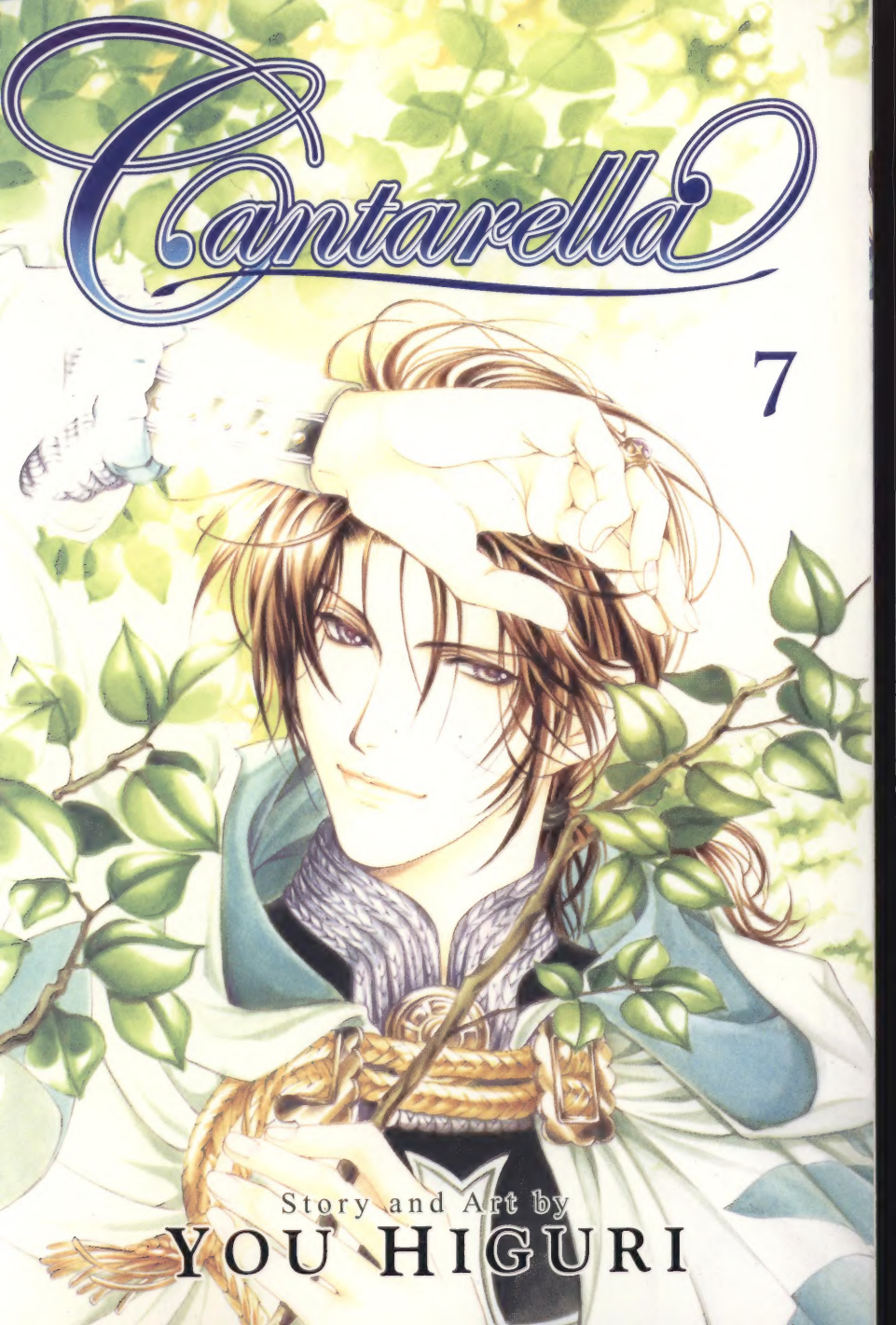

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ナンバレラ

Cantarella

STORY AND ART BY

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VOLUME 7

go!comi

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◆ POPE ALEXANDER VI ◆

An ambitious man who sold his own son's soul to the devil in exchange for the Papal throne. He has solidified his authority through nepotism.

◆ MICHELOTTO (CHIARO) ◆

A legendary assassin who wears the mask of "Michelotto." He holds the power to repel the evil spirits possessing Cesare.

◆DELLA VOLPE◆

Cesare's loyal retainer. He looks up to Cesare because of his tyrannical nature.

◆ LUCREZIA BORGIA ◆

A sweet girl who adores her older brother, Cesare. She was forced to wed the Lord of Pesaro but she has been called home and now resides in a monastery.

◆IL PEROTTO◆

A chamberlain of the Pope's.

◆ PANTACILIA ◆

Lucrezia's attendant. She would do anything to protect her precious charge.

STORY SO FAR

Separated by circumstances surrounding Juan's death, Cesare and Chiaro are forced to face their struggles alone. The demonic spirits possessing Cesare fight to take control of his body and without Chiaro around to suppress them, the mighty Cardinal finds himself rapidly falling under their power. While he presses himself to the very brink of madness, Chiaro heals his wounds in the arms of Lucrezia. But their romance may meet a bitter end when an envoy of the Pope uses the secret of their affair to blackmail Lucrezia...

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AFTERWORD...PAGE 186

CESARE BORGIA

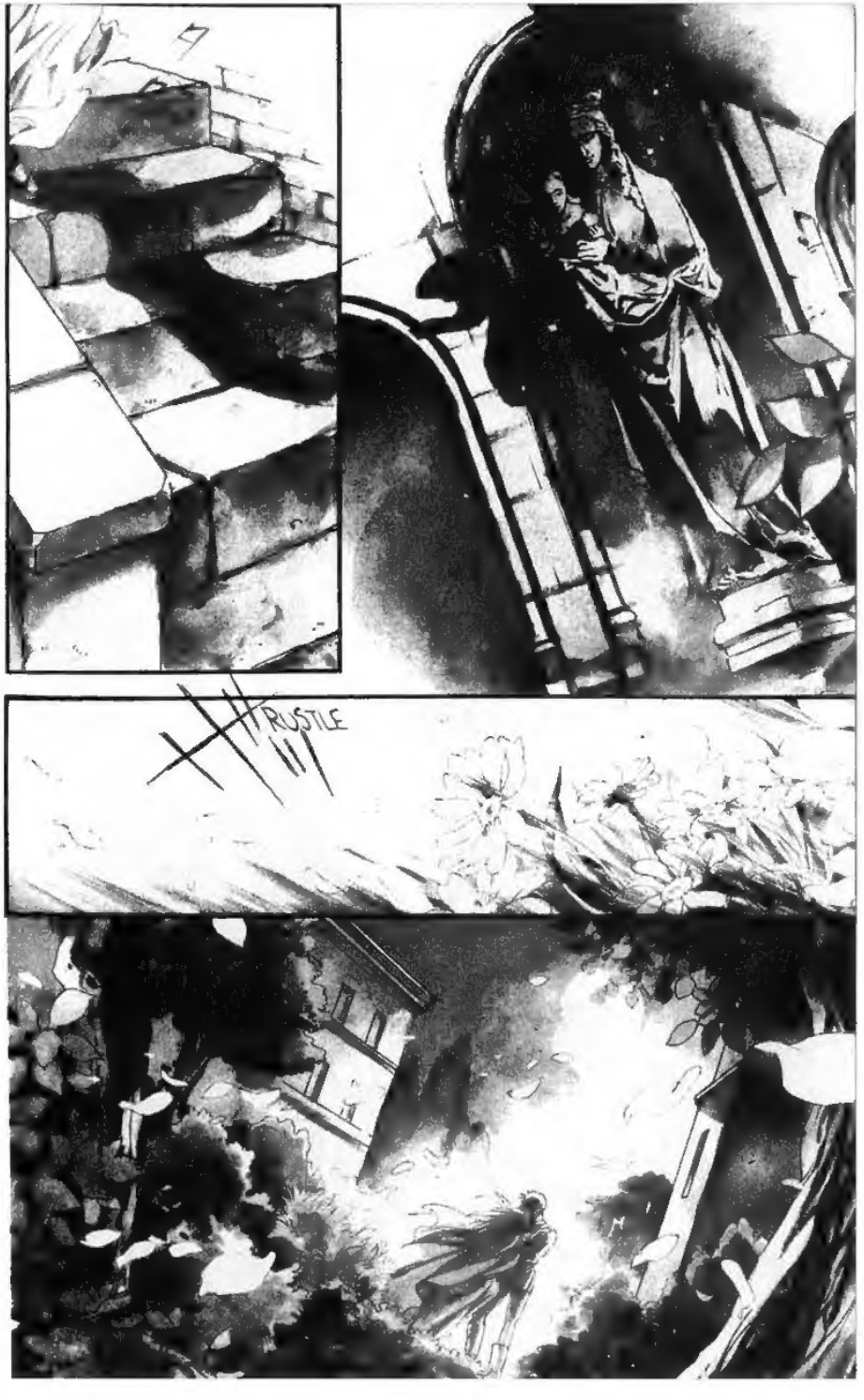
The hero of our story. His father sold Cesare's soul to the devil in exchange for gaining the Papal throne. Constantly on the brink of being devoured by the demonic power within, he is driven by the all-consuming desire to unify Italy.

This work is fiction.

Various cities and territories of Italy during *Cantarella* period

(end of the 15th century)

AMAZ-
ING.
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE A RAIN-FALL OF FLOWERS.
AND...
...YOU LOOK JUST LIKE A PRINCE OF THE FLOWER FAIRIES.
TEE HEE


RUSTLE

THAT LUCREZIA GETS TO BE IN YOUR EYES...
...BUT I MUST STAY HERE, DETACHED FROM YOU.
THAT...
...IS VERY LONESOME.
I'M AN ASSASSIN WHO WAS RAISED ON BLOODSHED.
WHAT I HAVE SEEN, I NEVER WANT YOU TO SEE.
CHIARO.

NO.
IT'S JUST...
...I GOT JEALOUS OF THE ME THAT IS IN YOUR EYES.
WHAT IS IT?
DO I HAVE SOMETHING STUCK ON ME?

THIS IS A PARADISE DRENCHED WITH THE SCENT OF BLOOMING FLOWERS.
...WILL BE CHASED OUT OF PARADISE.
BUT HE WHO HAS EATEN OF THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT...
THE FRUIT OF ORIGINAL SIN...
RUSTLE

I FELL FOR THAT KINDNESS, NOT CARING WHO OR WHAT YOU WERE.
YOU COMFORTED ME WITH YOUR KINDNESS.
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS OUT OF PITY.
I KNOW I'M A FOOLISH, DESPICABLE GIRL...
LUCRE-ZIA.
BUT...
BUT I WANT TO KNOW YOU.
EVEN IF THE PLACE INSIDE YOU IS HELL.
I WANT TO BE THERE.
I WANT TO LIVE WITHIN YOU.

...BECAUSE TO STEAL AWAY LUCREZIA, A MEMBER OF THE BORGIA FAMILY...
...WOULD MEAN...
MY CHEST HURTS...
...BETRAYING CESARE.

CAN I REALLY MAKE LUCREZIA HAPPY?
AFTER STAINING THESE HANDS IN BLOOD?
WHAT AM-I DOING?
I...

IT FILLS ME WITH JOY TO SEE THAT YOUR HEALTH CONTINUES TO IMPROVE.

YOU DON'T THINK—
AH! SSH!
AND THEN THERE'S THE POPE'S STRANGE ATTITUDE. .
WHAT WITH THE SEARCH BEING BROKEN OFF SO SUDDENLY...
...WITHOUT FINDING SIGNOR JUAN'S MURDERER.
I'M SURE THE OTHER CARDINALS WERE IN A COLD SWEAT.
THEY SAY...
...THE POPE DIDN'T SAY A WORD.

AND I WILL COMPLETE MY DUTIES AS ENVOY AS SOON AS I RETURN.
I AM, AS EVER, YOUR FAITHFUL SERVANT.
THE KING OF NAPLES' CORONATION CEREMONY IS PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY.
A PARADE IN HONOR OF HIS HOLINESS HAS BEEN HELD.
MURMUR
MURMUR

I'M GIVING YOU THE TOWNS OF CESENA AND FANO, CESARE.
SINCE JUAN IS DEAD...
...YOU ARE THE BORGIA FAMILY'S ONLY HOPE.
I...
...DIDN'T WANT TO SAY THEM.
BUT THE ONE WHO HAS SEIZED EVERYTHING OF MINE...
...IS YOU.
...I'D HEAR THOSE WORDS FROM YOU.
I NEVER THOUGHT ...
YOU ARE IN CONTROL NOW.
WHETHER OR NOT YOU ARE THE PAWN OF THE DEMONS WITHIN YOU, I WILL DO AS YOU SAY.

EVEN IF THEY INVESTIGATED FURTHER, THEY WOULDN'T TURN UP ANYTHING.
WHISPER
THAT'S SIGNOR CESARE'S FANATIC SERVANT.
IF HE HEARD US GOSSIPING LIKE THIS, WHISPER OUR LIVES WOULD BE IN DANGER.
HEH HEH.
LOVELY WEATHER TODAY, ISN'T IT?
SHH!
WHY WORRY?
ANYWAY, THE CRIMINAL—
BECAUSE ALL OF THE FACTS DISAPPEARED UNDER THE SURFACE OF THE TIBER RIVER.
YES...
NO NEED FOR THE FORMAL GREETING.
THIS IS MY PRIVATE ROOM.
YOU SUMMONED ME?
YOUR HOLINESS.

!
MASTER CESARE!
AH... UH...
WHAT HAPPENED !?
OOH...
IT'S NOTH-ING.
GET OUT OF HERE!
MASTER CESA—
BUT...
THERE'S NO NEED TO AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION.
NO.
THESE ARE JUST SPASMS. I'LL BE FINE SOON.
FRET
FRET
BUT...
SHOULDN'T I GET HELP?

EVEN IF I SAID I DID, IT WOULDN'T CHANGE ANYTHING.
DO YOU FEEL...
... REGRET?
MY BELOVED JUAN...
...WILL NEVER COME BACK.
CLICK

IF I RELINQUISH MY CONSCIOUSNESS...
...MY SOUL WILL BE DESECRATED BY THE DARKNESS.
FAINT
NO...! I...NOT YET...!
NOT YET...!

THIS ISN'T GOOD.
THE TIME BETWEEN SPASMS IS GETTING SHORTER.
YES SIR!
GET OUT OF HERE!
NO. I MUSTN'T DWELL ON SUCH THOUGHTS! IT WILL ONLY WEAKEN ME...
AT THIS RATE, I...
TWITCH
THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT TO HAPPEN.

IS IT... YOU...?
LIKE WAVES IN THE WATER...
THIS LIGHT THAT BECKONS...?
...THIS PAIN EBBS AND SURGES THROUGH MY BODY.
MASTER CESARE!

THE LIGHT... IT'S SO BRIGHT...
AH...
SHINE

HE'S ALL RIGHT.
WE SHOULD LET HIM SLEEP FOR A WHILE.
THE PAIN IS GONE FOR NOW.
WHAT HAPPENED TO MASTER CESARE !?
SIGNOR MICHE-LOTTO!
VOLPE.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
HIS HAND...

!
CHIARO!

KICK
DASH
!
CLATTER
URGH!
ME!
WHEN IT WAS I WHO WATCHED OVER HIM!
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE YOU!?

MASTER VOLPE!?
!
WHAT THE DEVIL?
THAT CAME OUTTA NO-WHERE.
GET OUT.
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TOUCH HIM.
WHY...

WAIT!
IF THIS IS HOW HE WANTS IT...
...I CAN'T STOP HIM.
SIGNOR VOLPE! SIGNOR MICHELOTTO! PLEASE STOP!

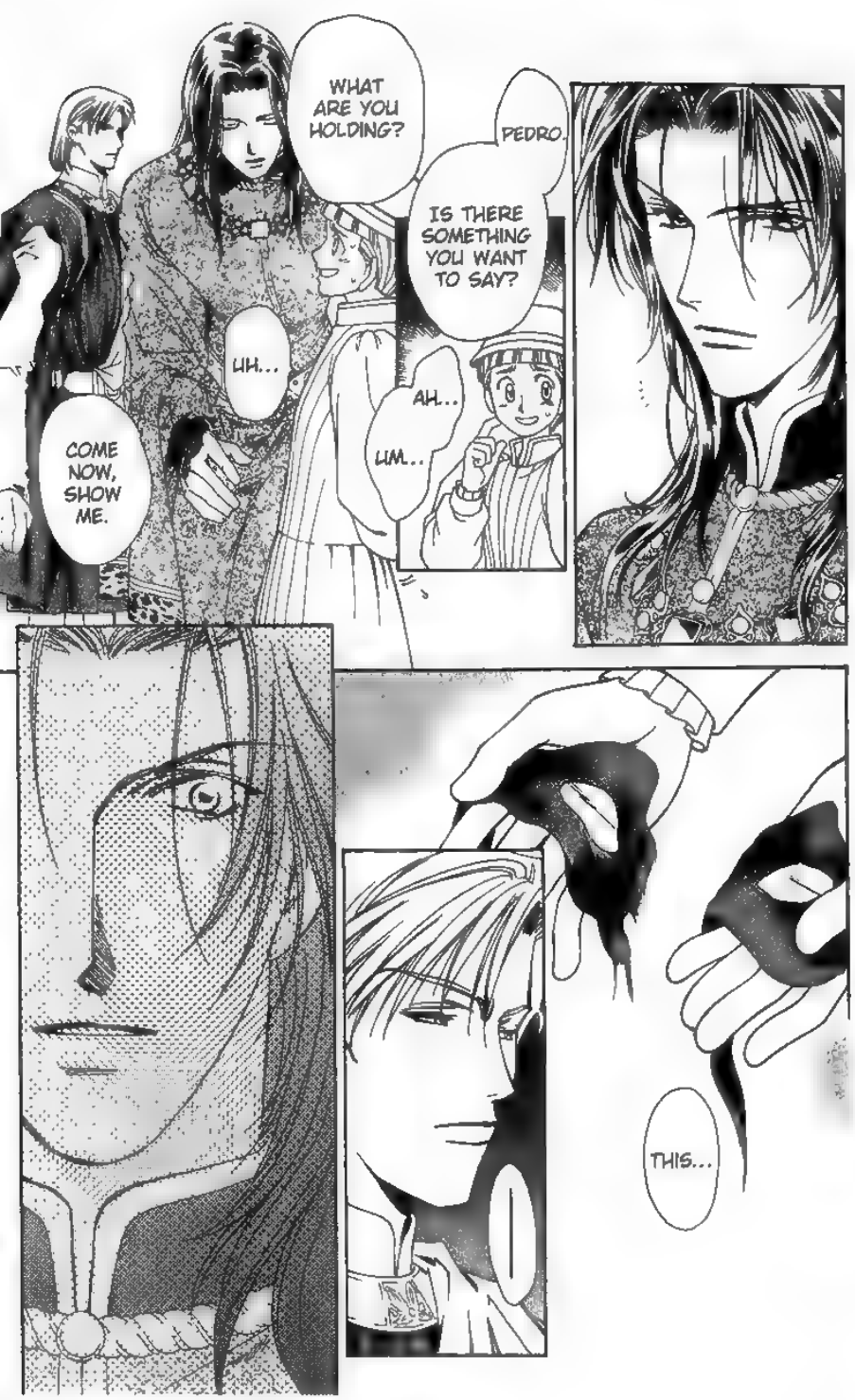
PUNCH
!
DON'T THRUST A SWORD AROUND FOR NO GOOD REASON!
JUST WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU!?
AH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU PUNCHED ME.
YOU ANIMAL.
.....
FSSS...
PTOOEE

WHAT'S HAPPENED !?
THIS GUY'S SERIOUS?
CARDINAL VALEN-TINO!
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS ?
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
MASTER CESARE.
OH.
SIR, WHERE'S THE THIEF?
GOOD THING THIS DIDN'T TURN OUT SO BAD.
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION ?
UHHN ...

S-SOME-ONE!
A THIEF! THERE'S A THIEF HERE!
UH...
AH!
DASH
DAMN!

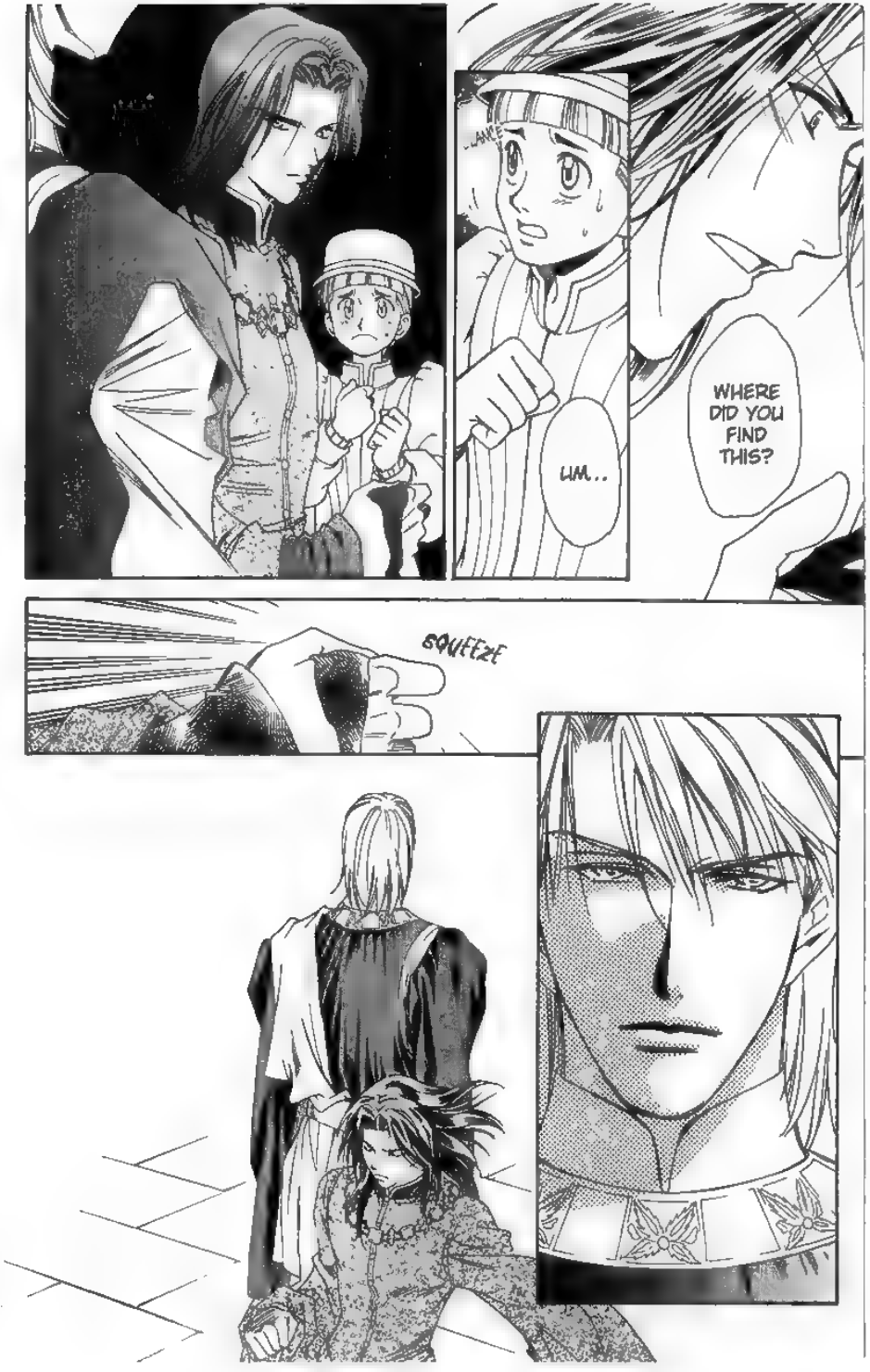
THOUGH POSTPONING THE INEVITABLE...
...WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING...
I'LL BE SLY...
I'LL JUST LEAVE THINGS AT THIS.
CAN YOU WALK?
YES. MY BODY FEELS BETTER THAN IT HAS IN A LONG TIME.

I can't go back now.
DAMN THAT PEDRO. WHAT'D HE MAKE SUCH A COMMOTION FOR?
YES, SIR!
HE COULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR.
FIND HIM!
RUSTLE


WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING?
PEDRO.
IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY?
UH...
AH...
UM...
COME NOW, SHOW ME.
THIS...

IT WAS A DREAM.
I HAD A STRANGE DREAM.
A POWERFUL LIGHT REACHED OUT TO ME AND CRUSHED THE DARKNESS.
IT WAS JUST LIKE...
IT HEALED THIS PAIN...
A WARM LIGHT THAT ENVELOPED ME...
GLARE
STARTLE
HOW CERTAIN YOU SOUND.
WERE YOU...
...GOING TO SUGGEST THE THIEF WAS MICHELOTTO?
AH...

RUSTLE


WHERE DID YOU FIND THIS?
UM..
SQUEEZE

HELLO.
MY LADY.
!
PAN—
IL...
PEROTTO.
YOU'RE LOOKING AS CUTE AS EVER.
FLEE
NOW, NOW. HOW COLD.
WRENCH
HOLD IT.
OW!

ALL RIGHT.
I WONDER WHAT THIS COULD BE ABOUT.
HUH?
MOTHER SUPERIOR WISHES TO SEE ME?
YOU SURE YOU DON'T MEAN LUCREZIA?
I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS. I WAS JUST SENT TO DELIVER THE MESSAGE.
BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD HURRY.
SMIRK
PAAN!
PAN..?
PANTA-CILIA, WHERE ARE YOU?

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M GOING TO EAT YOU.
I JUST WANT TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN...
IF YOU SATISFY ME...
...I WON'T PUT YOUR LOVER IN DANGER.
I MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT I'M A GENEROUS GUY.
CHIARO...
CHIARO!

CREAK
!
THAT SERVANT OF YOURS WON'T BE COMING.
I SENT HER ON A FAKE ERRAND.
CLICK
AH!
GET IN...
...BEFORE I STOP ACTING LIKE A GENTLE-MAN.
N...
NO!
COME ON, GET INSIDE.
IT'S THE LITTLE SHED YOU'RE ALWAYS PUTTING MEN UP IN.

MY LADY.
EXCUSE ME.
I'M IN A HURRY.
PANTA-CILIA?
!
OH NO!
PLEASE STAY SAFE... UNTIL YOUR PANTACILIA ARRIVES!
NO...
I CAN'T DO THIS AFTER ALL!
SHOCK

.....!
THEN ...
...WHO DID THAT MESSAGE COME FROM?
...WASN'T YOU, MADAME?
HUH?
THEN THE ONE WHO CALLED FOR ME...

BAM
MY LADY!
WAH!
LET GO OF MY LUCREZIA!
YOU MENIAL LITTLE--!

NO!
LET ME GO!
HEY!
DON'T STRUGGLE!
SHOVE
AH!
NO...!
-ZIA!
MY LADY!
PA...N!
I'M HERE, PAN!
BE QUIET!
SAVE M-
MPH!
!

PANTA ...!
WHAM
WHAM
PAN'S GOING TO DIE!
PLEASE, I'LL DO ANYTHING! JUST SPARE PAN!
STOP IT! PLEASE STOP IT! DON'T HURT HER!
LA... DY...
HMPH.

PUNCH
YOU AMATEUR!
WHY YOU LITTLE--!
I WAS JUST GETTING TO THE GOOD PART!
HURRY, WHILE YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE!
PANTACILIA!
GRAB
BITCH!
I'M OKAY... PLEASE, HURRY!

AH!
CHI... ARO...
YOU HAVE TO THREATEN A GIRL JUST TO GET A KISS.
PATHETIC.

I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU'D DO ANYTHING.
WAS THAT A LIE?
IF YOU'D BEEN LIKE THAT FROM THE START, THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED.
MY LADY.

GET YOUR FILTHY HANDS OFF HER.
OLD MAN.
HMPH.
WHAT A BOORISH ATTITUDE...
...FOR A YOUNG MAN TO TAKE!
THRUST

!
Y... YOU!
WHEN DID YOU--!?
AH...

AT ANY RATE, YOU HAVE A GOOD ARM.
I TAKE IT YOU'RE NO AMATEUR.
TMP
TMP
HA!
WHAT A WISE GIRL. SHE KNOWS THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES TO KILLING A SERVANT OF THE POPE.
DROP YOUR SWORD. IF YOU KEEP BABBLING, I'LL KILL YOU.
AH!
FLING
!
OOOH, SCARY.

NO, CHIARO!
!
!?
!

AREN'T THERE...
...CONSE-QUENCES TO KILLING THE DAUGHTER OF THE POPE?
IF SHE DIES...
...I'LL JUST SAY SOME YOUNG THIEF ATTACKED HER.
IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO DO AS I SAY.
YOU DO LOVE THIS GIRL, DON'T YOU?
AAH!
SQUEEZE
GRR ...!
Whoa!
CHOMP
!!
OUCH!!
CHIA...

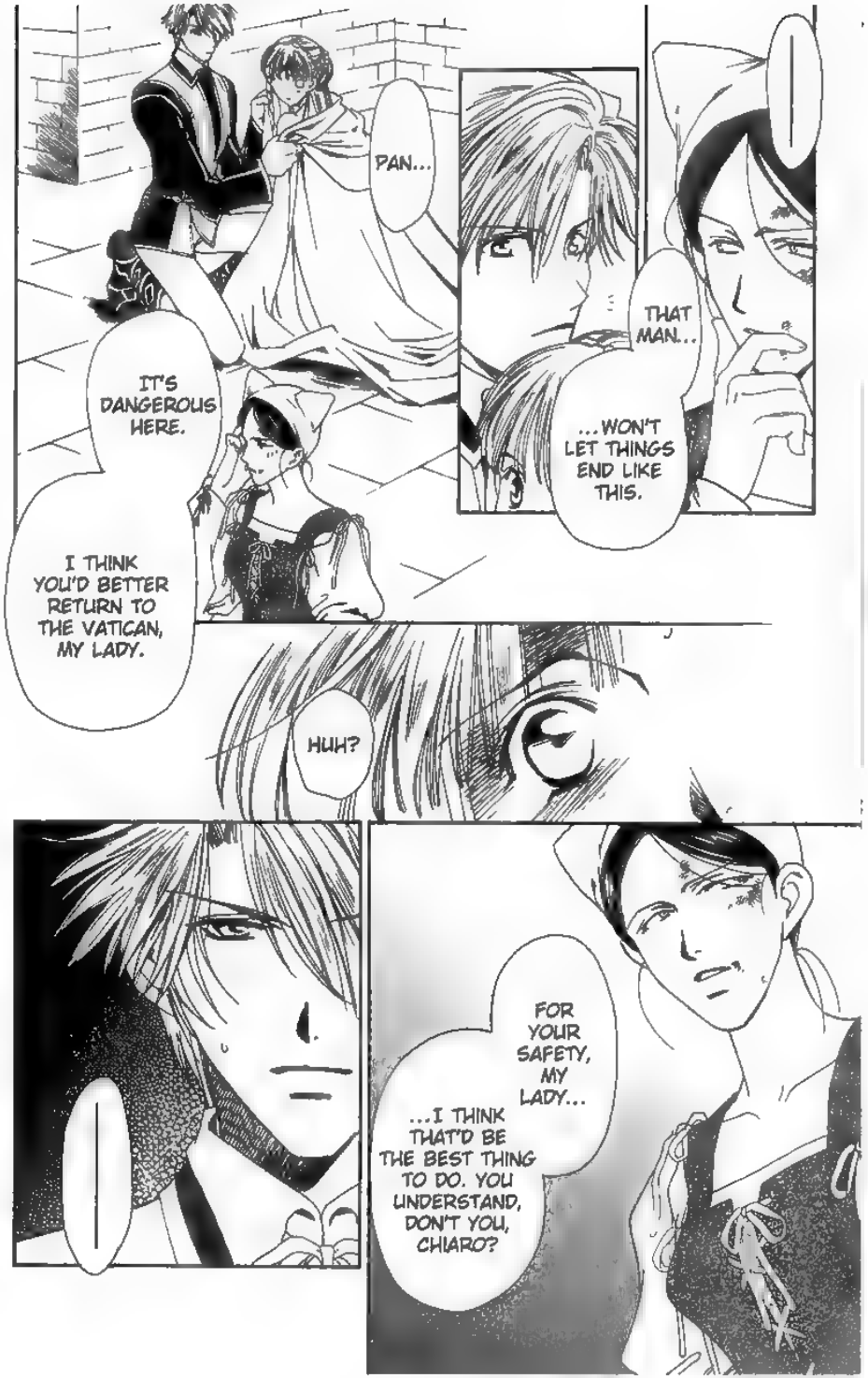
!
LAUNCH
DAMN
LUCREZIA!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SHOULD DROP YOUR SWORD.
UNLESS YOU DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR LITTLE DARLING HERE.

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MY LADY?
WHAT A RETRO THING TO SAY.
D...
DAMN YOU! I WON'T FORGET THIS!
PAN...
I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY, THIS IS ALL MY FAULT...
ARE YOU HURT?
LUCRE-ZIA.
AH...
IT'S NOT THAT BIG A DEAL.
I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE SAFE, MY LADY.

LEAP
!
LET GO!
LET GO, YOU LITTLE--!
!
CLANG
CLATTER
TCH!
EEK!

RUSTLE
CHIA-RO...
CHIARO!
LUCREZIA.
YOU MUST'VE BEEN PRETTY SCARED.
BLUSH
I...I'M OKAY.
CHIARO ...

I...I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK!
IF I GO BACK, I'LL BE FORCED TO MARRY A NEW HUSBAND-- SOMEONE I'VE NEVER EVEN MET!
NO!
I CAN'T TAKE IT! I CAN'T TAKE BEING USED AS A POLITICAL PAWN ANYMORE!
LUCREZIA.


PAN...
THAT MAN...
...WON'T LET THINGS END LIKE THIS.
IT'S DANGEROUS HERE.
I THINK YOU'D BETTER RETURN TO THE VATICAN, MY LADY.
HUH?
FOR YOUR SAFETY, MY LADY...
...I THINK THAT'D BE THE BEST THING TO DO. YOU UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU, CHIARO?

WELL? DID YOU FIND HER?
LADY LUCRE-ZIA!
LADY LUCRE-ZIAAA!
SHE WASN'T AT HER USUAL PLACE OF WORSHIP.
WHERE COULD SHE BE?
MY APOLO-GIES.
WE'RE SEARCHING FOR HER, SO PLEASE WAIT A LITTLE LONGER.

I'M SORRY ...
JUST FOR A MOMENT ...
...HOLD ME LIKE THIS.
I'LL...
I'LL CALM DOWN... SOON.
I UNDER-STAND...
...THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE BORGIA FAMILY...
...I WAS BORN TO THIS FATE.

TMP
IF IT ISN'T CARDINAL VALENTINO.
WHAT BRINGS A MAN SUCH AS YOURSELF TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?
I'M HONORED THAT YOU REMEMBER ME.
YOUR NAME IS IL PEROTTO, IS IT NOT?
YOU MUST BE THE POPE'S CHAMBER-LAIN.
IF THERE'S BEEN AN EMERGENCY, THE POPE SHOULD'VE SENT ME A MESSAGE.
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU.
OH?
GRIN
THERE'S A...

DON'T STARE.
HOW IMPRO-PER!
SHOO! SHOO
YES MA'AM.
NO APOLOGY NECES-SARY!
JUST TO HAVE A CARDINAL STEP FOOT IN OUR HUMBLE MONASTERY IS AN HONOR...
NO, I SHOULD APOLOGIZE FOR DROP-PING IN SO UNEXPECT-EDLY.
LADY LUCRE-ZIAAA!
DID YOU SEE...
...MASTER CESARE?
..HE'S SO BEAUTI-FUL IT'S FRIGHT-ENING!
I'D HEARD THE RUMORS, BUT IN TRUTH...
YOU MEAN CARDINAL VALENTINO?
WE MUST FIND LADY LUCRE-ZIA.
QUIT CHAT-TING.

RUSTLE
AS I GET CLOSER, IT GETS STRONGER...
THIS FEELING...
WHY IS MY CHEST SO TIGHT THAT IT HURTS?
...THIS FAMILIAR, WELCOMING FEELING...
THIS SHED HE SPOKE OF... APPROACHING IT, MY CONVICTION GROWS STRONGER, BUT MY THOUGHTS ARE DIVIDED.
...I'LL COME TO YOU, NO MATTER HOW FAR AWAY I AM.
WHEN-EVER YOU CALL FOR ME...

CHIARO, HURRY.
THERE'S SOME KIND OF COMMOTION OUTSIDE.
I'LL BE OFF.
THEN ...
CHIARO ...
DON'T MAKE THAT FACE...

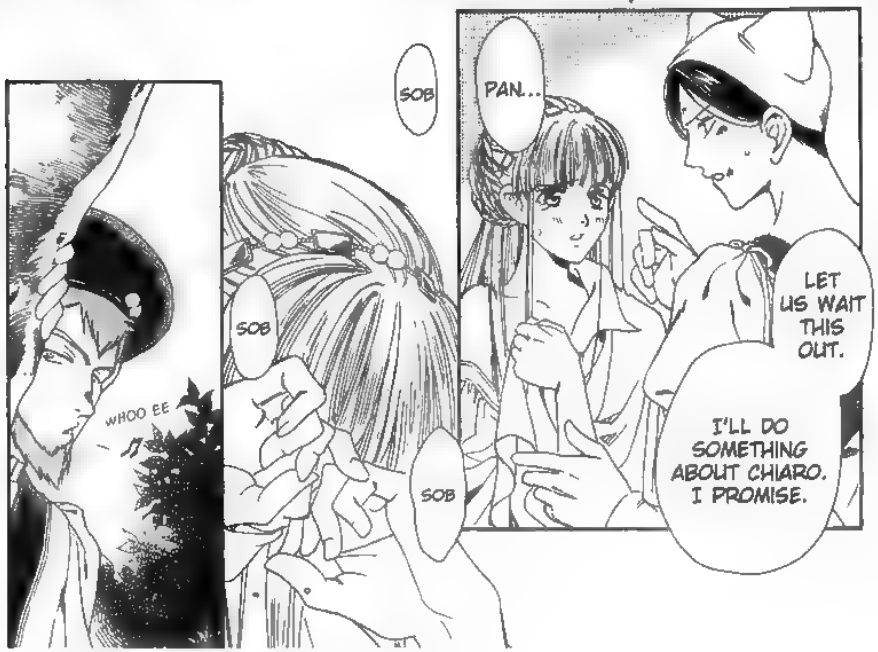
EEK!
IT DIVIDES... MY HEART...

LUCREZIA.
PLEASE, CHIARO...
DON'T LEAVE ME...

BROTHER... I...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, LUCREZIA?
YES SIR.
PANTACILIA, EXPLAIN THIS TO ME LATER.
GO AND PREPARE LUCREZIA'S THINGS.
YOUR NEXT HUSBAND HAS BEEN CHOSEN...
...SO YOU MUST GIVE YOUR TESTIMONY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
YOU MUST GIVE YOUR TESTIMONY BEFORE THE DELEGATES OF EACH NATION IN ORDER TO FORMALLY ABSOLVE YOUR MARRIAGE TO GIOVANNI SFORZA.
!

BROTHER ...

NO!
LET ME GO!
MY LADY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU SAY. NOTHING WILL CHANGE!
BROTHER CESARE!


SOB
PAN...
LET US WAIT THIS OUT.
I'LL DO SOMETHING ABOUT CHIARO. I PROMISE.
SOB
SOB
WHOO EE

!
IT SEEMS...
...YOU HAVE BEEN TOO PERMISSIVE.
MY NEXT...
...HUSBAND? YOU'VE ALREADY ...?
THIS MAN...
CHIARO DID NOTHING WRONG.
I...
PANTACILIA, TAKE LUCREZIA OUT OF HERE!
NO...
BROTHER, LISTEN! CHIARO IS—
COME NOW, MY LADY.

THE NIGHT WE SEPA-RATED ...
I HAD BAD WOUNDS AND WAS BARELY CONSCIOUS. I DIDN'T KNOW THAT THIS WAS THE MONASTERY LUCREZIA WAS STAYING AT.
...I WAS PURSUED TO THIS PLACE.
WHY ARE YOU HERE, CHIARO?
THIS SITUATION DISTURBS ME.
EXPLAIN YOUR PRESENCE HERE!
BAD WOUNDS ?
YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS WHEN...
...JUAN MUSTERED UP HIS LAST BIT OF STRENGTH TO COME AT ME.
YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT...
...I WAS THE ONE WHO KILLED JUAN.
YOU...
...HAVE NO NEED TO FEEL GUILT OVER HIS DEATH.
!
HA HA HA!
CESARE.
HOW LIKE YOU.
A GUILTY CONSCIENCE ?
I'VE NEVER HAD SUCH A THING.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

YOU SHOULD KNOW...
...JUST HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT YOU...
HER SOUL IS SCARRED BY HER FEELINGS FOR YOU. THEY ARE LIKE A HELL SHE CANNOT ESCAPE FROM.
LUCREZIA WOULD THINK OF YOU AND WEEP.
YOU WERE MOVED BY HER KIND-NESS?
.....!
I WANTED TO HELP HER.
I WONDERED IF THERE WAS SOME WAY TO HEAL THOSE SCARS.

I WAS READY FOR IT TO HAPPEN.
I COULD BARELY MOVE. I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE THEN AND THERE.
CON-TINUE.
THAT SO?
THAT'S ...
...BECAUSE THAT GIRL IS AN ANGEL.
SHE NURSED ME WITH AN AFFECTION I HAD NEVER KNOWN.
AND THEN LUCREZIA FOUND ME.

!?
YOUR KINDNESS, AT THIS TIME...
...IS THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAP-PEN.
YOU SLEPT WITH HER OUT OF PITY! THAT'S THE ONLY REASON!
.....!
ARE YOU SO SURE OF THAT?
YOU'RE WRONG!

I FELL IN LOVE WITH LUCREZIA.
I JUST WANTED TO EASE HER PAIN A LITTLE...
...SO I SLEPT WITH HER.
SO THAT SHE COULD FORGET ABOUT YOU!
I WON'T EXCUSE WHAT I DID.
PUNISH ME IF YOU MUST. I'LL ACCEPT IT.
Woooo
I DO LOVE HER.
YOU... LOVE HER?
LUCREZIA...?

DON'T STRUG-GLE!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING!? STOP WITH THE JOKES!
MM...
UU...
STOP IT!
PUNCH

HUH...
!?
IF I HAD KNOWN THIS WOULD HAPPEN, I WOULD HAVE DONE AS SHE WISHED AND SLEPT WITH HER MYSELF...
THAT WAY...
SLAM
!?
CESARE, WHAT'RE YOU—

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF.
WHY ARE YOU THE ONE?
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE YOU...!?
CESARE!
TURN
!

THIS IS NO TIME TO PLAY AROUND!
WHY'RE YOU DOING THIS?
!
GOD ...
... DAMN.
LET ME SEE IT.
DON'T TOUCH ME!
!?
YOUR HAND! IT'S GOTTEN WORSE!
YAOI

CESARE ...
WHOOP-SIE!
NEVER ...
...SHOW YOURSELF TO ME AGAIN.

I KNOW.
YOU'RE IN A DIFFICULT POSITION.
YOU'VE DONE AS YOU PLEASE WITH THE POPE'S DAUGHTER.
SUCH A THING WILL NOT BE OVER-LOOKED.
EVEN IF I DON'T TELL HIM, THE NEWS WILL STILL REACH HIS EARS.
BEFORE THEY COME AFTER YOU...
...YOU MUST LEAVE ROME!
!?

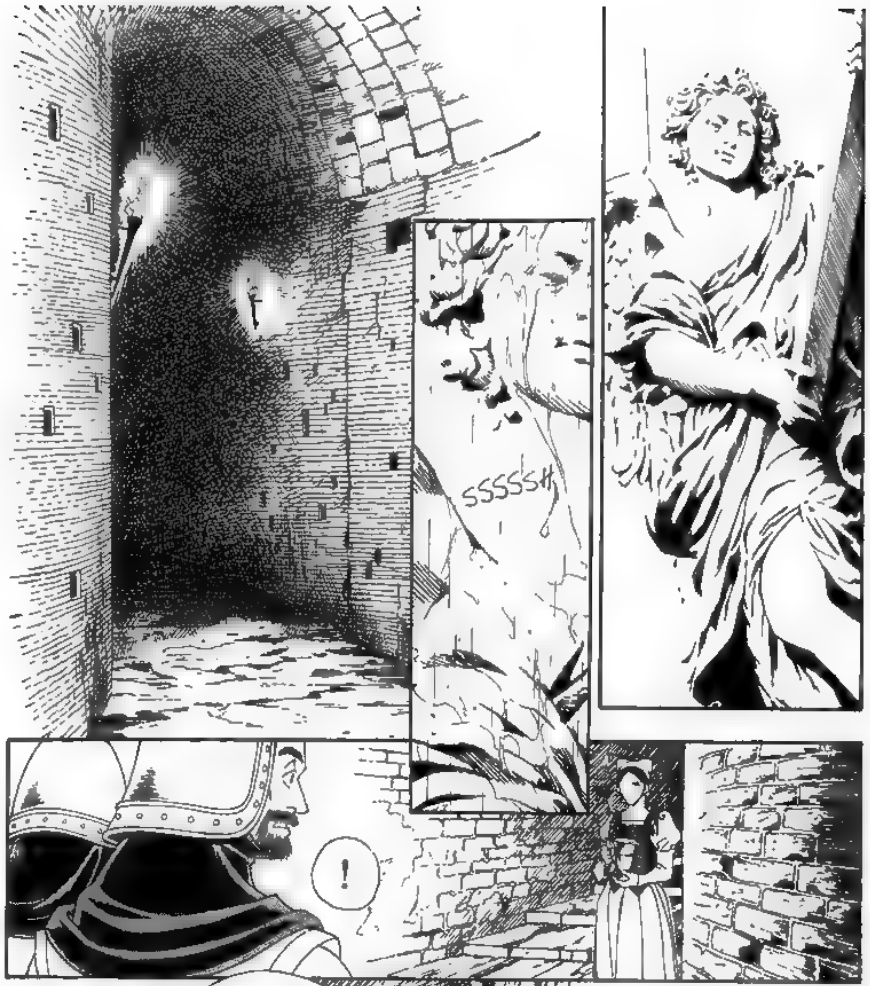
THE WEATHER'S LOOKING BAD.
YOU MUST HURRY.
YES.

GO AND ESCORT LUCREZIA...
...PLEASE.
RUB
IT'S NOTHING.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
YES...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

CHI... ARO...
MASTER CESARE.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
.....!

I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS...
MAYBE IT'S BETTER NOT TO KNOW...
ONE OF THE BORGIAS, UNDER ARREST !?
WHY?
...SHE SEEMS TO BE UNDER HOUSE ARREST.
THIS IS JUST A RUMOR BUT...
DOESN'T SHE HAVE THE FINE SANTA MARIA PALACE?
WHY?

BETTER NOT TO KNOW...
SSSSSH!!


SSSSSH!
!

THERE'S A ROOM DOWN THERE. THE LADY LUCREZIA IS STAYING THERE.
WHAT IS THIS? A LADY OF THE COURT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
WHAT, YOU DON'T KNOW?

HEY! THAT HURT! WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, YOU HOOLIGAN!
BUMP
TEETER
WHOA!
...SHOW YOURSELF TO ME AGAIN.
THE MOMENT I EMBRACED LUCREZIA WITH THESE ARMS...
...I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN THIS DAY WOULD COME.
!
I'VE SEEN YOUR FACE SOMEWHERE.
AH! YOU ATTACKED ME ONCE WHILE I WAS SINGING!
FANCY RUNNING INTO YOU AGAIN!

TAP
BARK
BARK
YOU MUST LEAVE ROME!
NEVER...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU GET DUMPED BY YOUR WOMAN?
Heh heh heh!
WELL? PRETTY BOY?
I'LL TAKE WHAT I'M GIVEN.
THAT'S QUITE A GETUP HE'S WEARING.
HE SOME KIND OF ARISTOCRAT OR SOMETHING?
LIFT
DON'T TOUCH ME...
...WITH THAT DIRTY HAND.
WHAT DID YOU SAY, YOU LITTLE--!?
!
PUNCH
EVEN SO, I...
...WOULD MEAN BETRAYING CESARE.
DEEP DOWN, I KNEW THAT FALLING IN LOVE WITH LUCREZIA...

WATCHING HER STRUGGLE SO HARD TO CAPTURE HIS HEART, THE HEART SHE COULD NEVER HAVE...
...CHARMED ME.
HER EXPRESSION, ALWAYS, SHIFTING ...
ALWAYS IN SO MUCH PAIN WHEN SHE LOOKED AT CESARE.
HEY.
BULLYING YOUNG MEN AGAIN, ROSSI?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, LITTLE BOY?
I'M TALKING TO YOU. LOOK AT ME.
AND...
...NOW HE THINKS HE CAN JUST TUNE ME OUT.
HE WRONGED ME ONCE OVER A TRIFLING MATTER.

FIGHT BACK SOME!
IT'S NO FUN WHEN YOU'RE WEAK.
SLAM
THAT'S ENOUGH, MASACCIO.
IF IT TURNS OUT HE'S ARISTOCRACY, YOU'LL MAKE A POWERFUL ENEMY.
HA...
YOU REALLY THINK...THIS IS HURTING ME?
It's just a scratch.
IN TRUTH, I SENSED CESARE'S FEELINGS LONG AGO...
BUT I PRETENDED NOT TO HAVE NOTICED.
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH SAYING THAT!?

I WILL-FULLY COMMIT-TED THIS SIN OF BETRAYAL ...
AAH!
TAKE YOUR FIGHT ELSE-WHERE!
CLATTER
CLATTER
CRASH!
PUNCH
THIS IS WHAT I DESERVE.

SSSSSH
I WILL SHOW YOU HOW BIG THE WORLD IS.
NO PLACE SHALL GO UNTOUCHED BY MY CONQUERING HAND.
SO... FAR AWAY...
WOBBLE

WHATEVER! I PUNCHED HIM BECAUSE I WAS BORED.
LET'S GO.
STOP ALREADY. YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO DIE.
HUFF
TCH!
HUFF
SHOULD I ACCEPT HIM OR DRIVE HIM AWAY? THIS HUMAN... MY MOST IRREPLACE-ABLE FRIEND...
...THE ONE I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE...
FLAP!

DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA. I DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO DAMAGE YOUR REPUTATION.
I JUST WANT TO CONDUCT A LITTLE BUSINESS WITH YOU.
REGARDING THE MURDER OF YOUR BROTHER.

MAMA!
THAT MAN IS HURT!
HUSH!
DON'T LOOK!
SLIDE
EVEN NOW I HESITATE, TRYING TO AVOID THE QUESTION...
...EVEN THOUGH I'VE KNOWN THE ANSWER FOR A LONG TIME.

LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS.
ANY FURTHER ENQUIRIES WILL ONLY LEAD YOU TO PHYSICAL PAIN.
I WAS THINKING THAT I'D LIKE A PORTION OF YOUR FORTUNE AND AUTHORITY.
I'M NOT A GREEDY MAN. ONE INSTALLMENT OF TEN THOUSAND DUCATS IS ALL I ASK.
I'M IMPRESSED.
LET'S GET THIS DONE QUICKLY, THEN.
AFTER THAT, I WON'T BOTHER YOU ANYMORE.
AH.
TEN THOUSAND DUCATS. YOU THINK BIG.
I'D SAY IT'S WORTH THAT MUCH, WOULDN'T YOU?

OH?
IT'S NO USE.
IF I DIE SUDDENLY OR DISAPPEAR UNDER STRANGE CIRCUMSTANCES ...
...I'VE WRITTEN A SECRET MESSAGE THAT WILL BE SENT TO THE POPE AND HIS CARDINALS.
I WAS REALLY SURPRISED TO FIND OUT THAT YOU WERE INVOLVED IN YOUR BROTHER'S DEATH.
THAT BLOND YOUTH, WHATEVER HIS NAME WAS, IS REALLY SOMETHING.
I SEE.
SO YOU WERE EAVESDROPPING.
I WAS JUST CURIOUS.
REALLY, YOU TWO SEEM TO HAVE A COMPLICATED RELATIONSHIP.

LADY LUCREZIA.
PERK
...A MERE WORM.

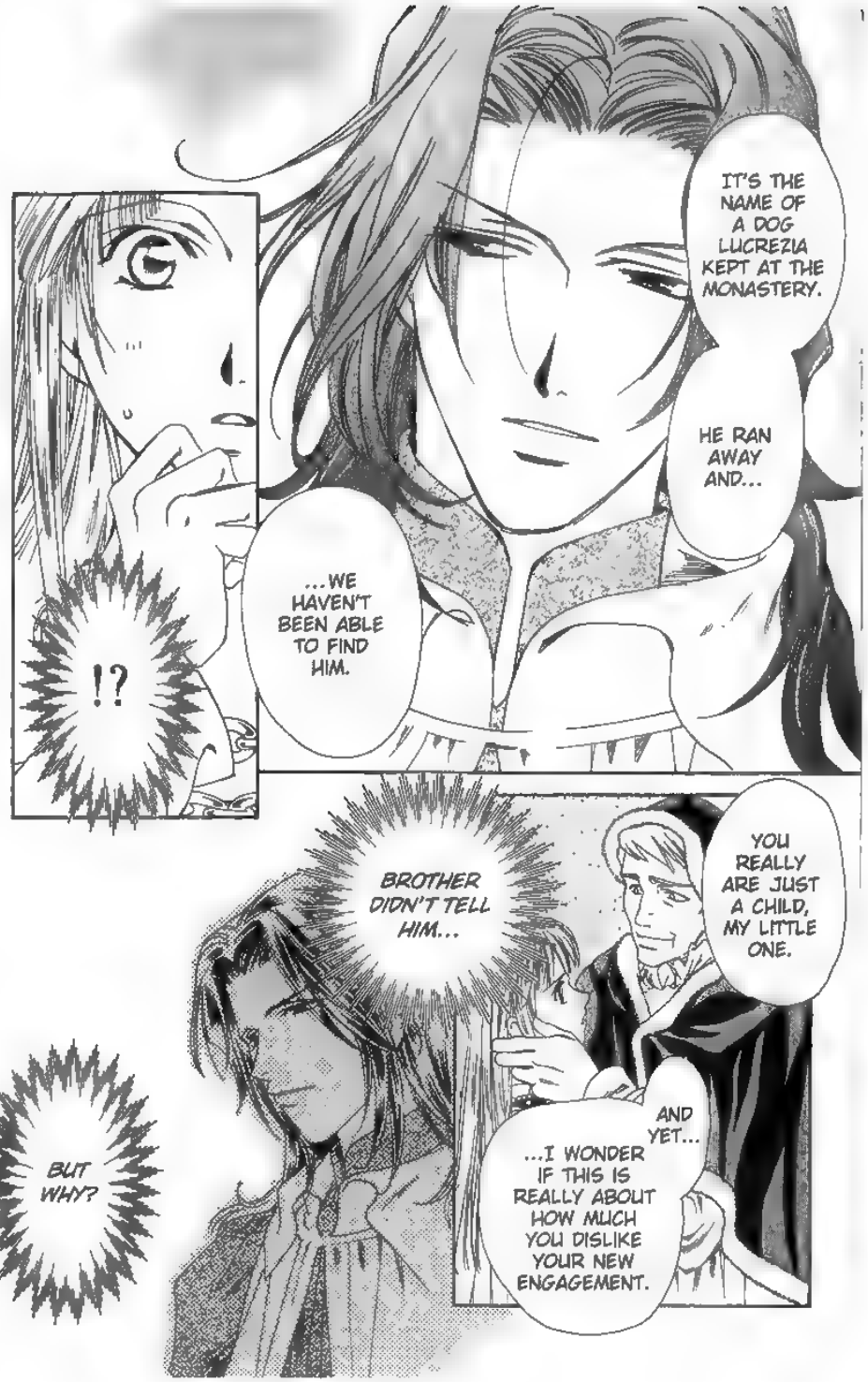
VOLPE.
HAVE YOUR UNDERLINGS FOLLOW HIM.
STEP
ALL RIGHT.
OUR NEGOTIA-TION IS FINISHED.
FINE. I'LL ARRANGE FOR IT.
CAN YOU WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW?
I COULD GO AFTER HIM MYSELF—
THAT MAN IS...
IT'S NOT WORTH YOUR GETTING INVOLVED.

CHIARO ...
WHAT HAPPENED TO CHIARO?
TELL ME!
PLEASE, CESARE!

RAISE YOUR FACE, LUCREZIA.
SUCH A GREETING IS FOR STRANGERS.
B... BRO-THER.
!!

LUCREZIA.
COULD IT BE THAT FATHER DOES NOT KNOW?
AH...
!
CHIA-RO?
WHO IS THIS CHIARO YOU SPEAK OF?

I HEAR THAT SIGNOR ALFONSO D'ARAGON IS A VERY GENTLE AND WELL-LOVED MAN.
HE'S 17, SO HE'S VERY CLOSE TO YOUR AGE.
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY AT ALL.
YOU'RE BEST OFF NOT THINKING TOO HARD AND JUST DOING AS YOU ARE TOLD.
BUT...
I DON'T LOVE HIM OR EVEN KNOW HIM!
DON'T BE SO SILLY, LUCREZIA.
DON'T YOU UNDER-STAND? SUCH A THING AS LOVE WITHIN THE BONDS OF MARRIAGE ...
...HAS NO VALUE WHATSO-EVER. WHAT YOU SHOULD BE THINKING OF IS—
THE SECURITY OF THE BORGIA FAMILY!
ENOUGH! I GET IT!


IT'S THE NAME OF A DOG LUCREZIA KEPT AT THE MONASTERY.
HE RAN AWAY AND...
...WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIM.
!?
YOU REALLY ARE JUST A CHILD, MY LITTLE ONE.
BROTHER DIDN'T TELL HIM...
AND YET...
...I WONDER IF THIS IS REALLY ABOUT HOW MUCH YOU DISLIKE YOUR NEW ENGAGEMENT.
BUT WHY?

I UNDER-STAND ...
COME NOW, YOU'RE A SMART GIRL.
DON'T SAY SUCH UNREASON-ABLE THINGS.
...THAT MUCH.
BUT MY HEART SAYS OTHERWISE. IT HURTS SO MUCH.
WAAAAH!
FATHER, IF YOU ARGUE WITH HER FURTHER IT WILL ONLY UPSET HER MORE.
LET ME TALK TO HER.
LUCRE—
YOU'RE RIGHT.
SHE ALWAYS LISTENS TO YOU. IT WAS THE SAME WAY WITH GIOVANNI.
PHEW ...
I THOUGHT SHE'D GROWN UP A LITTLE...
SHE WAS MORE REASONABLE BEFORE.
SHE WILL COME TO UNDER-STAND.
SHE JUST NEEDS A LITTLE MORE TIME.
THAT'S RIGHT. TIME WILL RESOLVE EVERYTHING.
CHIARO WILL BECOME A BEAUTIFUL MEMORY CHISELED ETERNALLY INTO MY LADY'S HEART.

IS THAT...
...WHY YOU DIDN'T TELL FATHER?
NOT TO ANYONE ELSE!
BUT WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM IS NOT YOUR CONCERN...
IF I HAD TOLD THE TRUTH, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN HUNTED DOWN AND IMPRISONED.
...SO WHY BOTHER...?
...I COULD NOT CARE LESS ABOUT...
WHAT HAPPENS TO HIM..
...BUT I WON'T HAVE YOUR NAME DRAGGED THROUGH THE MUD.

THAT MEMORY WILL NEVER FADE.
AND THAT WILL BE THE ONE THING THAT SAVES HER.
LUCREZIA.
SAYING HE WAS A DOG-- WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO!?
YOU SHOULD'VE JUST TOLD HIM!
I HAVE DEVOTED MYSELF TO CHIARO.
DON'T TOUCH ME!

YOU SEE...
...I AM SATISFIED TO BE THE ONE...
...WHO FALLS TO HELL.
BROTHER?
I WISH TO CREATE A UNIFIED COUNTRY WITH ROME AT ITS CENTER.
TO NO LONGER FEAR INVASION FROM OUT-SIDERS.
DON'T YOU SEE?
IF I CAN STRENGTHEN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH NAPLES, IT CAN BECOME MY CORNERSTONE. BUT FOR THAT, DEAR SISTER, I NEED YOU.
!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU HATE ME.
IN TRUTH, I THINK YOUR HATRED IS BEST FOR US BOTH.

YOU'RE FREE TO GO TO HELL IF YOU FEEL LIKE IT...
YOU ARE FREE TO FOLLOW YOUR OWN IMPULSES, BUT I AM JUST A PAWN.
...BEFORE GOD HIMSELF? STOP TALKING THAT WAY!
WOULDN'T IT BE FAR WORSE FOR ME TO MAKE A VOW OF FALSE LOVE...
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.
!
GASP
I'M SORRY... I...
...AND I WISH YOU WOULD!

THE ANGELIC LUCREZIA.
THE PURER YOU ARE...
...THE FURTHER INTO DARKNESS I PLUNGE... A DARKNESS I CANNOT IGNORE.
I LOVE YOU, BUT WITH THE SAME STRENGTH ...
...I ALSO HATE...
TMP
TMP

WAIT...
I—
SLAM
DON'T SAY SOMETHING SO CRUEL!
AH...
BROTHER...!
I'M SORRY...
I'M SORRY, BROTHER!
I'M SORRY...

OH.
YOU NEEDN'T HAVE COME HERE.
WE TOOK CARE OF EVERYTHING.
THE PERSON HIMSELF TESTIFIED...
...THAT YOUR NAME IS AMONG THOSE WHO HELPED TO FALSIFY SOME THREE THOUSAND...
...OF THE POPE'S IMPERIAL PRE-SCRIPTS.
IT'S TRUE!
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH IT!
LOOK INTO IT AND YOU'LL SEE!
!!
VOLPE...IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, HE'S CESARE'S ASSOCIATE.
I'M GOING TO SPILL ALL OF HIS SECRETS FOR THIS!
DAMN HIM!
HE'S THE ONE WHO PUT ME HERE!
SO IT WAS CESARE AFTER ALL.
LOOM
AH!
HUH?
IT'LL BE OKAY. CALM DOWN.
AFTER ALL, MY LIFE IS ASSURED.
HUH?
SOMETHING'S CHASING ME.
HUH?
PEDRO CALDERÓN. YOU ARE SUSPECTED AS A KEY PLAYER...
...IN THE MISAPPRO-PRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS FROM THE VATICAN.
WHAT!?
ENOUGH! QUIET, YOU!
KICK!!
I NEVER HEARD OF ANY FLORES!!
THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE!
I WAS NEVER A PARTNER IN SUCH A THING!

THIS IS THE LAST BAG.
WHAT DO WE DO NEXT?
I SEE.
THEN SEAL THE WINDOW SHUT.
DAMN YOU...
DON'T THINK THIS WILL END SO EASILY!
WHAT A PEST.
THAT'S ...
...WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT, ISN'T IT?
...WAS HIS LONG-CHERISHED AMBITION.
TO BE BURIED WITH GOLD...
...TO BE QUICKLY FORGOTTEN.
IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR THE CRIMINALS ROTTING AWAY IN THE DUNGEON BENEATH SANT'ANGELO...

WHA ...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?
MASTER VOLPE, WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THESE?
!!
ONE MAN IS AN HONORED CARDINAL. ANOTHER IS A CROOKED THIEF INVOLVED IN THE MISAPPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS. TELL ME...
...WHO DO YOU THINK EVERYONE WILL BELIEVE?
AH, YES.
THIS IS JUST THE REWARD OUR GUEST ASKED FOR. GIVE IT TO HIM.
YES SIR.
CLINK
CLINK
THAT SHOULD BE TEN THOUSAND DUCATS. MY MASTER ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES.
S-STOP IT!
YOU TRYING TO BURY ME ALIVE!?
AAAH!
BUT THEN...
...THAT TREASURE ISN'T WORTH MUCH IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

!?
CHIARO!
SSH! IT'S ME. ME!
DRAG
SOME-BO-
MM! MMPH!
OH NO-- I'M BEING MURDERED!

PLEASE TAKE ME TO YOUR MISTRESS.
I KNOW WHAT I'M ABOUT TO ASK...
...IS RIDICULOUS, BUT PANTACILIA...
What happened? You're a mess!
FOOL! WHY'D YOU COME TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?
IF YOU'RE CAUGHT, YOU'LL BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!

I DON'T WANT TO KEEP MY MISTRESS IN SUCH AN ENVIRONMENT FOR LONG.
I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE DOING TO THE POOR MEN...
THEY WAIL SO OFTEN.
THE PRISONERS ARE SCREAMING AGAIN...
I HAVE TO GET HER OUT OF HERE.

BUT IF SHE LEAVES HERE, SHE MIGHT...
EE!
AN ESCAPED PRISONER?
LOOM
!?
CLATTER

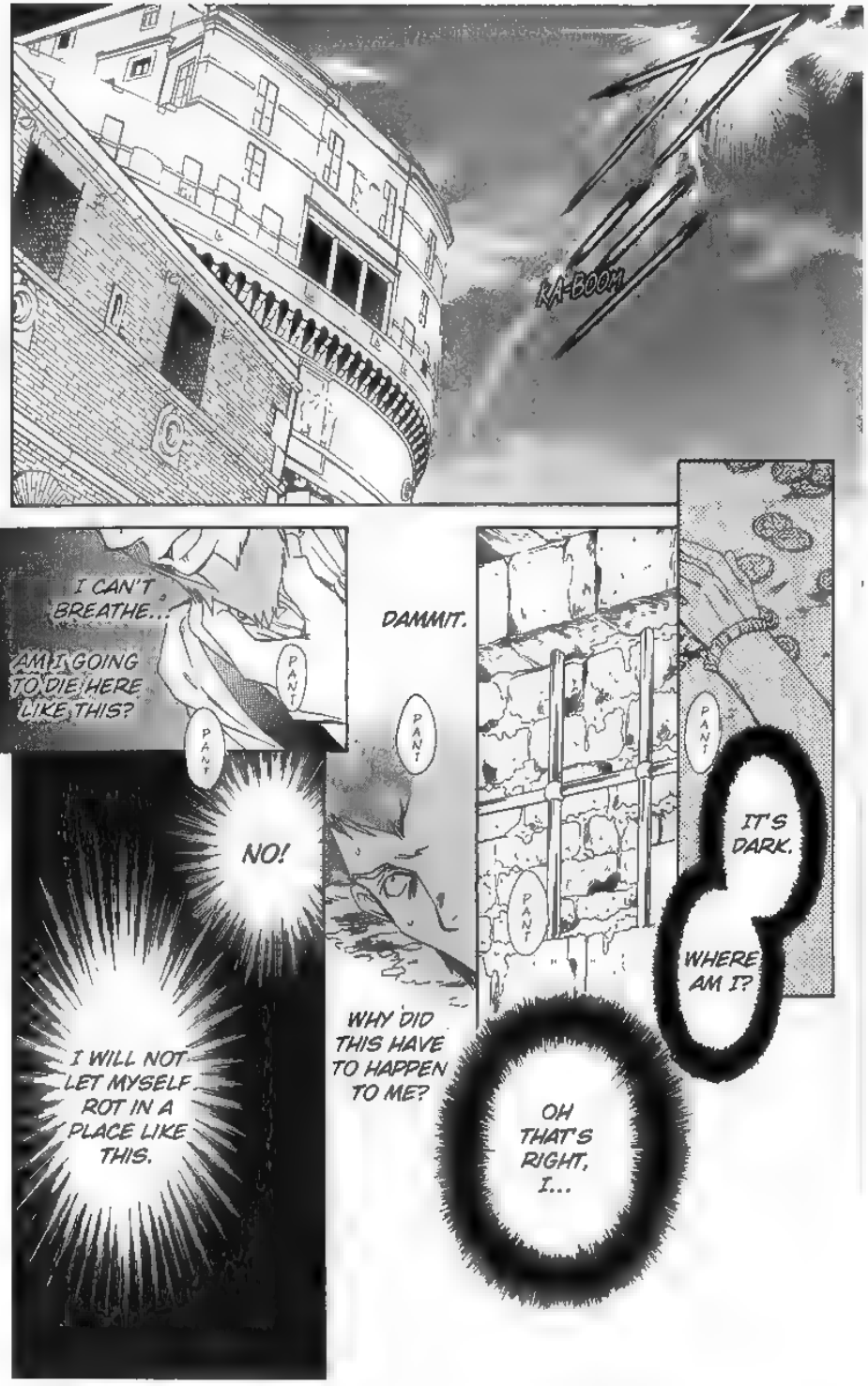
TAKING HER WITH ME WOULD ONLY BRING HER MISFORTUNE.
I CAN'T DO THAT TO HER.
HOW RUDE! I SUFFER TOO.
I'VE HAD TO LISTEN TO THAT CRYBABY WEEP OVER YOU DAY AFTER DAY.
SHE'S NEVER GOING TO RUN OUT OF TEARS.
UNLIKE YOU, I'M NOT ABLE TO SO EASILY SEPARATE EMOTION FROM REASON.
THAT'S VERY WISE OF YOU.
PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BEST TO VANISH WITHOUT A WORD.

I WANT TO TELL LUCREZIA MYSELF.
I'M LEAVING ROME.
THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
AT ANY MOMENT YOU MIGHT BE SPOTTED.
RUB
!
I SEE. LEAVING ROME...
NO...
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?
TAKE HER WITH YOU?

MY MISTRESS IS UNDER HOUSE ARREST...
...UNTIL THE DAY SHE'S USHERED INTO HER NEXT MARRIAGE.
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

AT THIS RATE, SHE'LL DROWN IN A LAKE OF THOSE TEARS.
AND SHE REFUSES TO TOUCH HER FOOD.
SIGH ...
IT'S NO USE.
PANTA-CILIA.
I KNOW.
THE GUARDS WILL BE SWITCHING THEN.
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SNEAK YOU IN TO SEE HER.
BEFORE THE BELL TOLLS MIDNIGHT, COME HERE ONCE MORE.
GUARDS ?

WH-WHAT IS THAT? A GLOWING WHITE FACE!?
AM I HALLUCINATING?
...TO LIVE?
FOOM
!?
GLIMMER
SAVE ME!
[SOME-BODY...
ANYBODY, SAVE ME!
...NT TO LIVE?
...YOU WANT TO LIVE?


KA-BOOM
I CAN'T BREATHE...
AM I GOING TO DIE HERE LIKE THIS?
PANT
PANT
PANT
NO!
I WILL NOT LET MYSELF ROT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
DAMMIT.
PANT
PANT
WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN TO ME?
IT'S DARK.
WHERE AM I?
OH THAT'S RIGHT, I...

SPLASH
MAS... TER.. CES...
AH!
I CAN'T... CONTROL... THE DEMONS.
THEY'RE TOO... POWER-FUL...
THEY'RE TRYING TO... CONTROL MY... BODY...
IT'S SUCKING MY BLOOD!?

!
MASTER CESARE!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
CLATTER
!
NO!
DON'T COME NEAR!
!
CRAB

SSSHT
SLASH
GAH!
AAAH!!

AT THIS RATE, THEY'LL TEAR YOU UP.
MASTER CESARE!
NO! I CAN'T DO SUCH A THING!
PLEASE... USE YOUR SWORD...
...TO CHOP OFF THIS ARM.
VOLPE!
I CAN'T DO IT!
DO IT.
THAT'S AN ORDER.

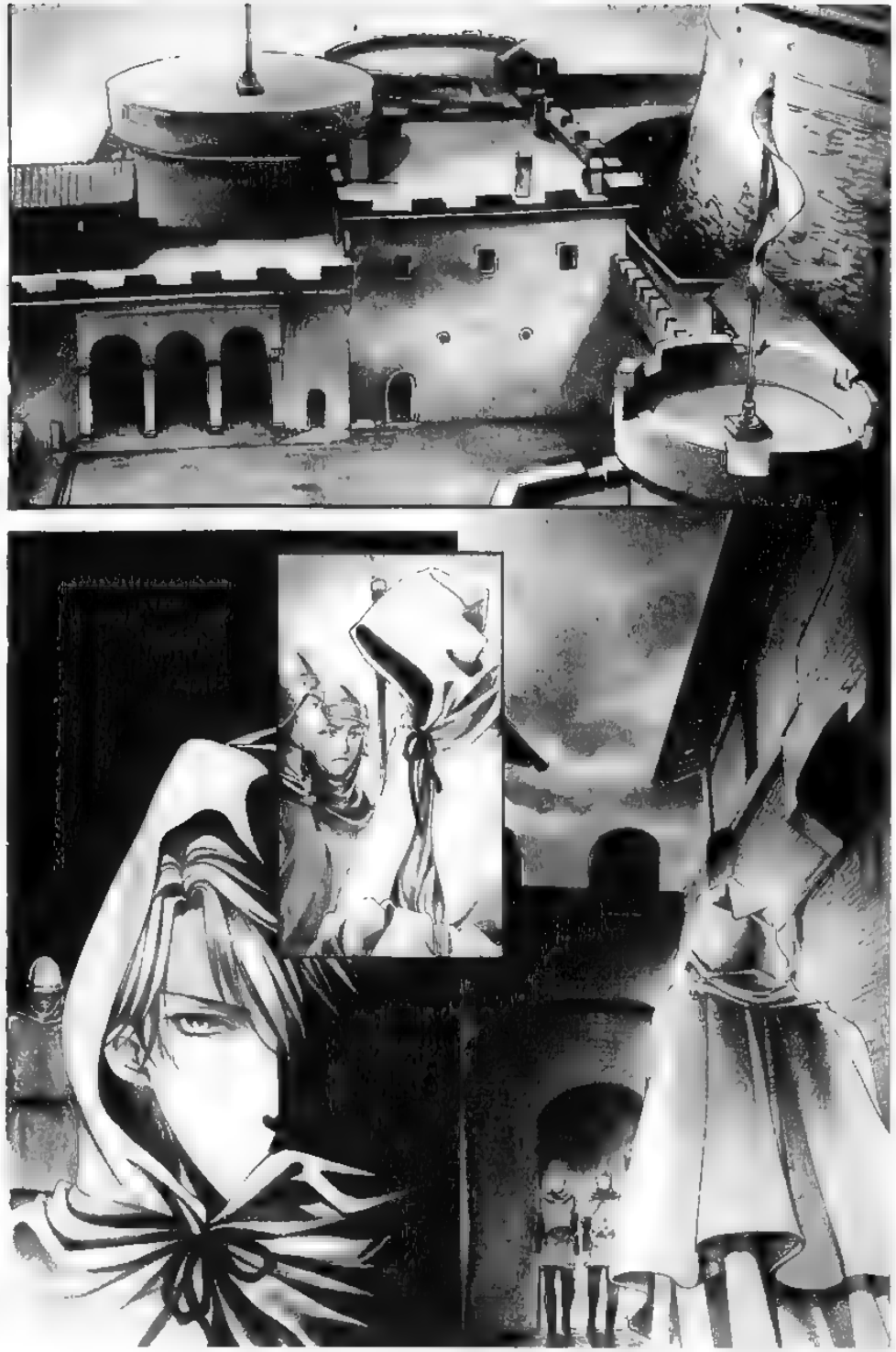
LET ME GO...
I DON'T WANT TO...
IF YOU MUST DIE, MY EXISTENCE WILL END HERE AS WELL!
I MUST BE ABLE TO SERVE YOU IN THE TRUEST SENSE.
I WANT TO TEST MYSELF.
IF CHIARO CAN DO IT, WHY NOT ME AS WELL?
...LOSE YOU, TOO.
.....!
SLIP
THUNK

MASTER CESARE!
I DON'T CARE!
LET ME GO...
MY BLOOD IS POISON...
YOU MUSTN'T... VOL...PE...

BE-
HOLD.
I AM
ALREADY
NO LONGER
HUMAN.
THE
DARKNESS
HAS
BEGUN...
...TO
ERODE
AWAY MY
INSIDES.

NOW
THEN...
GO AND
CLEANSE
YOUR
BODY.
AS
LONG AS
YOU DON'T
INGEST IT,
YOU WON'T
DIE!
MASTER...
CESARE...
THERE IS NO
SUBSTITUTE
FOR HIM...
NOT
ANY-
BODY...
I'LL BE
OKAY.
!

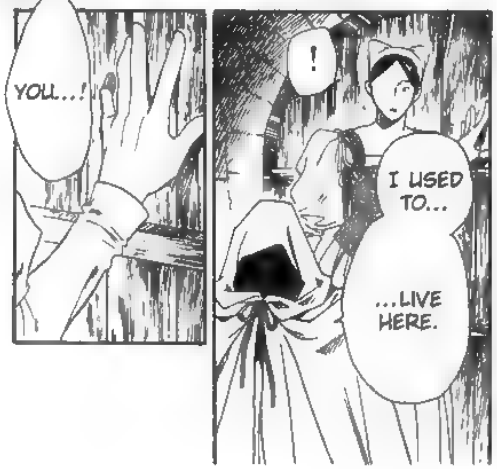
PANTA-
CILIA.
!
IT'S
ME.
ME.
CHIARO.
I'D FEEL BAD IF I WAS CAUGHT AND GOT YOU IN TROUBLE.
IF I'M DRESSED LIKE A MONK, THEY'LL ASSUME I FOOLED YOU
YOU'RE VERY CAUTIOUS.
That look doesn't suit you at all



I'VE HEARD THE RUMORS ABOUT THE ASSAS-SIN OF SANT' ANGELO.
MICHELOTTO !
COULD IT BE...CHIARO IS THE MASKED ASSASSIN MICHELOTTO?
PANTACILIA?
AH...
YOU...
COULD IT BE HE INTENDS HARM TOWARDS MY MISTRESS?
!?

IT'S A SHORTCUT TO THE WEST ROOF. THEY LOCKED HER AWAY PRETTY HIGH UP.
!?
ONLY PEOPLE INSIDE ARE SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT.
HOW DID YOU...?
THIS IS THE FASTEST ROUTE.
EVEN THOUGH IT'S A LITTLE TIGHT.

CHIARO DID SAY HE WAS AN ASSASSIN. AND HE EVEN SAID HE KILLED MASTER JUAN...



FLAP
A BIRD... ON A NIGHT LIKE THIS!?
!
KA-BOOM
I'M WORRIED. I HAVE A BAD FEELING...
...IT'S ALREADY PAST MIDNIGHT.
SHE SAID SHE HAD SOMETHING SHE WANTED TO SHOW ME, BUT...
WHERE COULD PANTACILIA HAVE GONE OFF TO?

THANKS.
I BELIEVE IN YOU, CHIARO.
NO. IT'S NOTHING.
NO MATTER WHAT CHIARO MAY BE...
...I CAN SEE FOR MYSELF THAT THERE IS NO DECEPTION IN HIS LOVE FOR HER...
...AND THAT IS A FEELING I UNDERSTAND BETTER THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
KA-BOOM

DASH
AH!
WAIT, CHIARO!
!
THIS SENSE OF EVIL...IT'S SOMETHING I'VE OFTEN FELT AROUND CESARE.
...LIKE AN EXPLOSION OF POWER.
THAT'S RIGHT. IT FEELS...
AS IF IT HAD ONLY ONE OVER-POWERING DESIRE DRIVING IT.
CLACK
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IT SEEMED TO HAVE A WILL OF ITS OWN...!
CLACK

!
!
YOU'RE LATE...
CLATTER
PAN—
I
I'M SHOCKED!
ZZZ
WHAT'S WRONG WITH TODAY'S GUARDS?
I WAS WONDERING WHY WE HADN'T ENCOUNTERED ANYBODY!
SLUMP

!
KUH!
LUCRENZIA!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, CHIARO? YOU'RE ACTING STRANGE!
ZAP
I'M SURE OF IT. THIS THING IS PITTED AGAINST ME...
THIS MALICIOUS ENERGY!

GAH..
COUGH
WHERE ARE YOU LOOKING, BOY?
FOOH
!?
CHI...
...ARO
!?
HOW DID HE GET BEHIND ME LIKE THAT?
I'M GOING TO KILL BOTH OF YOU. EVERYONE WILL THINK YOU COMMITTED SUICIDE TO BE TOGETHER.
PER-FECT TIMING.

SWAP
UH... WAH!
RUSTLE
HE DIS-APPEARED !?
HE'S NOT HERE?

I KNEW IT! THIS ISN'T NORMAL!

NOT GOOD. I CAN'T BREATHE!
SQUEEZE
GAH!
SQUEEZE
AND WHERE DID HE GET THIS INHUMAN STRENGTH?
!
I'LL DESTROY EVERY ONE OF THEM!
CESARE'S MOST PRIZED PETS...
MY REVENGE SHOULD BE JUST AS HIDEOUS AS HIS DEED, DON'T YOU THINK?
THANKS TO YOUR MASTER, I WAS WALLED UP IN A CELL AND LEFT TO STARVE.

YOU...
...PLINY...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
JOURNEY-A!!
AAH!

SO...
...BE A GOOD BOY AND...
...DIE!
I'LL SOON SEND YOUR LOVER TO THE AFTER-LIFE TO JOIN YOU!
DON'T WORRY...
STAB
WHA—

AAAH!
LEAVE ...
...THE REST TO ME.
GET BACK.
THUMP

SPLATTER
GUH... WAH!
RIP!
SPLAT
AH.
AH... AH!

LUCRENIA!
IT'S OKAY.
IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
AAAAH!
AH...
.....
IL...
PEROTTO? WHY?

CHARO!
AH!
I FINALLY GOT IN!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY, BUT THE INTERIOR OF THE ROOM WENT AS BLACK AS IF A THICK CURTAIN HAD BEEN DRAWN.
I COULDN'T TAKE ONE STEP INSIDE THE DOORWAY ...
JUST WHAT HAP—
!?

MY LADY!
NOOOO!
CHIARO... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SO MUCH BLOOD GUSHED OUT...
BUT THE ONE WHO STABBED HIM...WAS ME...
THERE WAS SO MUCH BLOOD!
NO... DON'T GO.
CHIARO...
PLEASE ...
CHIARO, YOU SHOULD HIDE.
SOMEONE MUST'VE FOUND THE GUARDS.
UH-OH. IT'S GETTING NOISY OUTSIDE.

I'M HERE.
LUCREZIA.
LUCREZIA ...
IT WASN'T YOU.
THE ONE WHO BROUGHT HIS HANDS DOWN ON HIM WAS ME. AND ANYWAY HE—
AH... I...
...KILLED ...
WITH MY OWN..
...HANDS ...

BUT...
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU...
I'M SORRY.
I SAID SOME-THING SO SELFISH...
.....!
IT'S TOO PAINFUL TO LIVE WITH A DEAD HEART.
CHIA...
!

TAKE ME WITH YOU!
AH...
EUGENIA.

LUCREZIA.
COME WITH ME.
……

IF YOU WASTE ANY MORE TIME, YOU'LL BE CAUGHT.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM, SO IF YOU TWO ARE GOING...
...PLEASE GO QUICKLY.
PAN ...

LET'S GO.

PRECIOUS CHILD...
BE HAPPY, AND TRIUMPH OVER YOUR FATE.
THANK YOU..
...I HOPE YOU FIND A PLACE...
...WHERE YOU CAN ALWAYS SMILE.
YOUR SMILE MAKES PEOPLE'S HEARTS GLOW.
SO...
!?
LOOM

PLEASE BE HAPPY.
MY LADY.
!
IF YOU AREN'T, I WON'T FORGIVE YOU.
PAN ...
YES...
CHIARO.
TAKE CARE OF MY MISTRESS.
PANTACILIA?

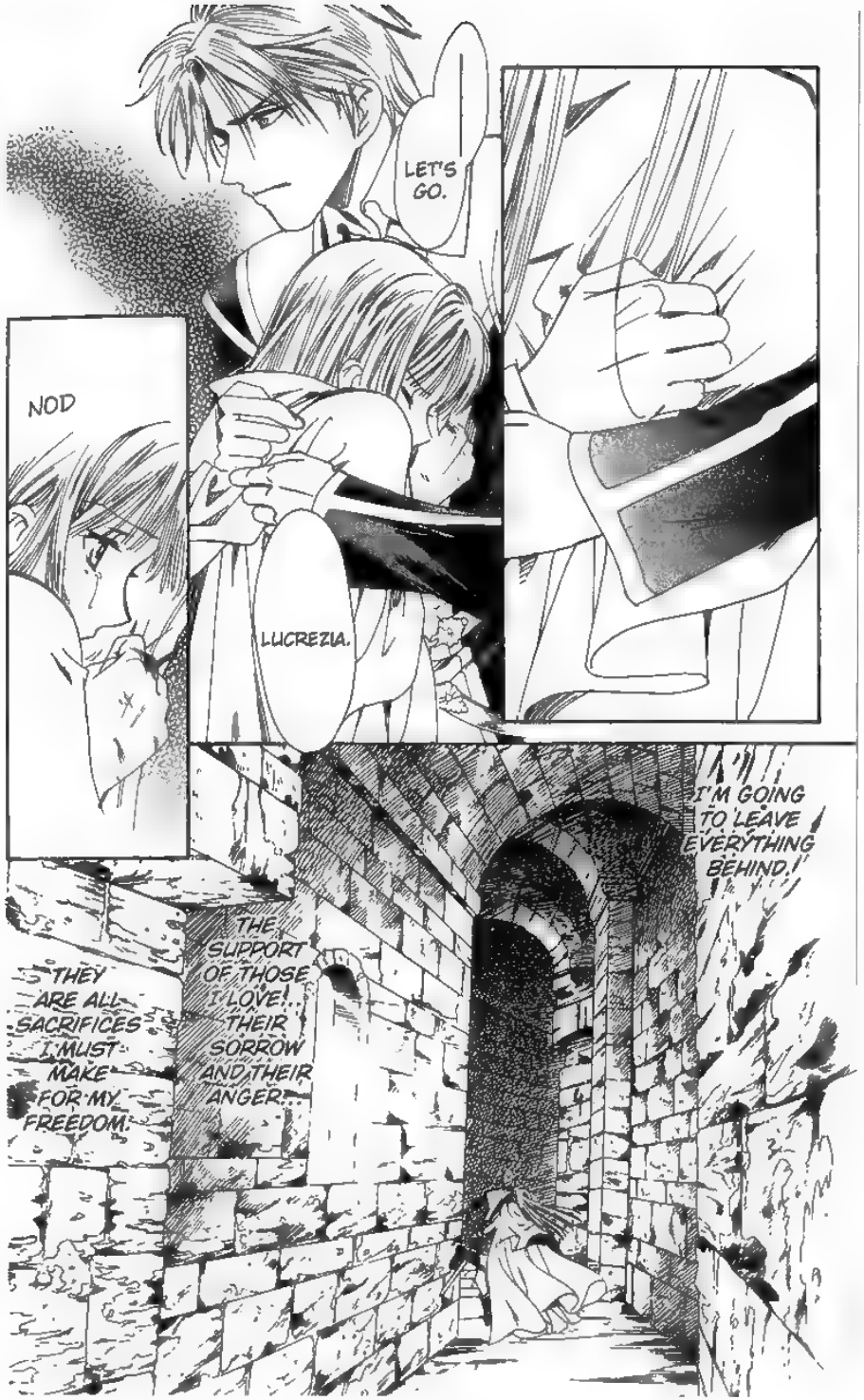
WAS HE THERE!?
LOOK HARDER.
NO.
WE CAN'T FIND HIM.
HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR!
UH... THOSE TWO...
WHERE DID... THEY GO?
THEY WON'T... GET AWAY...
DID YOU FIND HIM?
THAT'S ODD... IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THEY'RE AFTER ME...

STAB
HUFF
YOU'RE IN MY WAY.
MOVE!
THUD

BUT --!
NO, LUCREZIA.
IF YOU GO NOW, YOU'LL BE CAUGHT.
THAT MAN.. HE'S STILL ALIVE! AND PANTACILIA, SHE COULD BE--!
LUCREZIA!
shock
.....!

IT'S AN EMERGENCY, MASTER VOLPE!
LADY LUCREZIA'S ROOM IS EMPTY!
NO.
WELL...
!
VOLPE!?
WHAT?
ALL THE GUARDS WERE UNCONSCIOUS AND A LADY OF THE COURT WAS FOUND MURDERED.
IT COULDN'T BE PANTA-CILIA—
!

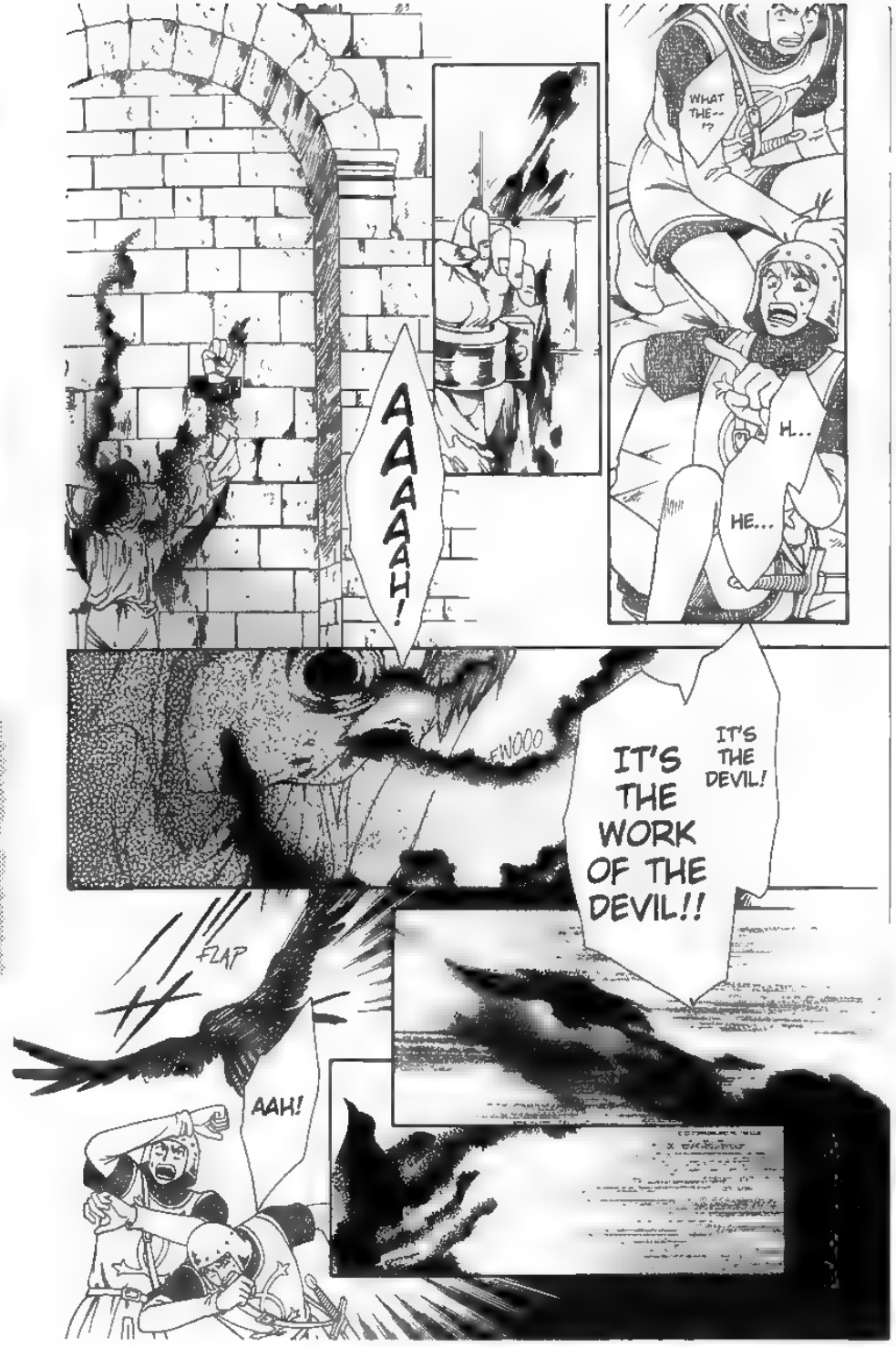
DEAR GOD...
ALL I NEED IS THE WARMTH OF HIS HAND.
I MUST GATHER MY COURAGE.
...UNLEASH YOUR WRATH ON ME...
...FOR ALL I NEED IN THIS WORLD IS HIM.


LET'S GO.
NOD
LUCREZIA.
I'M GOING TO LEAVE EVERYTHING BEHIND.
THE SUPPORT OF THOSE I LOVE!... THEIR SORROW AND THEIR ANGER...
THEY ARE ALL SACRIFICES I MUST MAKE FOR MY FREEDOM.

FOR THEM TO IDENTIFY YOU, WE SHALL HAVE TO HAVE AN ORGAN TO PRESENT TO THEM.
LET ME REPHRASE MY COMMAND. SLICE OFF EVERYTHING OF HIS IF YOU MUST...
...UNTIL HE SPILLS IT.
!
COME ON, ARE YOU SERIOUS !?
STOP!
LET ME GO!
LET ME GOOO!
WHAT IS IT?
YIKES!

YOU'RE WOUNDED.
HOW DID YOU ESCAPE THAT CELL?
MASTER VOLPE, PEDRO CALDERÓN...
...HAS BEEN FOUND.
WHERE IS LADY LUCREZIA?
NEVER MIND, I'LL FIND OUT LATER.
HA!
I'M PRO-TECTED, YOU HEAR ME?
I'M NOT GOING TO TELL YOU THAT EASILY.
I DON'T CARE WHAT IT TAKES, FIND OUT WHERE LADY LUCREZIA IS.
TAKE HIM AWAY!
PTOOIE
!

!
SO...
...WAS LUCREZIA'S LOCATION REVEALED?


WHAT THE--!?
H...
HE...
AAAAAH!
WOOO
IT'S THE DEVIL!
IT'S THE WORK OF THE DEVIL!!
FLAP
AAH!

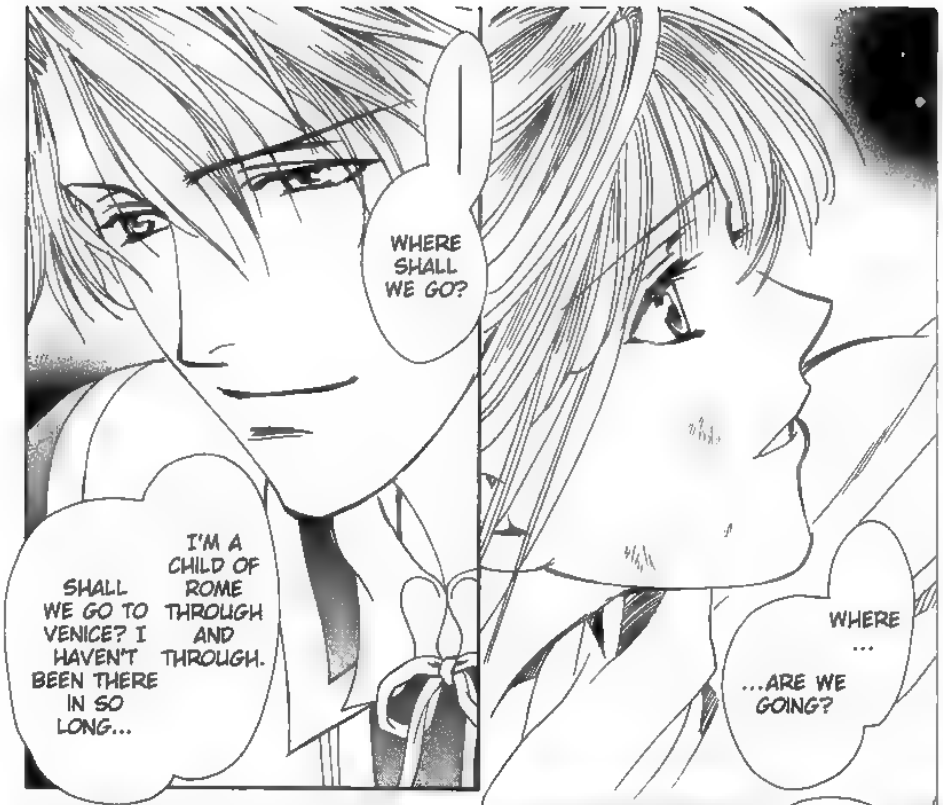
LADY LUCREZIA IS PROBABLY SAFE.
SHE'S BEING PROTECTED... BY THE MOST SKILLED SWORDSMAN OF THE VATICAN.
DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH LUCREZIA?
YOU'RE A WISE MAN.
YOU'D FIGURE OUT THE TRUTH SOON ENOUGH...
...SO I WILL TELL YOU NOW.
HAAA

YES.
JUST BEFORE HE DIED.
OR RATHER, ONCE HE FULFILLED HIS ROLE AS A CONFESSOR, HE HAPPENED...
...TO MEET HIS END.
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE LEAVING SOMETHING OUT.
I'M...
...UNSURE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT...
...I SHOULD TELL YOU THIS.
BUT...

LOOK OUT!
OH!
WHAT IS THAT ... ... GLOW ?
IN THE DIRECTION OF SANT' ANGELO...
LIGHTNING MUST'VE STRUCK.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE RUBBLE FLEW THIS FAR.
ARE YOU HURT?
I'M FINE BECAUSE YOU PROTECTED ME.
IT MUST BE HARD TO WALK.
I'M SORRY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO ENDURE IT FOR A WHILE.
IF WE USED A HORSE, WE'D STAND OUT TOO MUCH.

LUCREZIA?
I WONDER IF...
...SOMEDAY I'LL WAKE UP...
AND THIS IS A CONTINUATION OF THAT DREAM.
LIKE IT HAPPENED IN A DREAM.

I BECOME WORRIED WHEN...
...YOUR EYES SEEM TO BE LOOKING FAR AWAY...
!
SILLY. WHAT'RE YOU SO WORRIED ABOUT?
DON'T LEAVE ME.
STAY WITH ME ALWAYS.


WHERE SHALL WE GO?
SHALL WE GO TO VENICE? I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE IN SO LONG...
I'M A CHILD OF ROME THROUGH AND THROUGH.
WHERE ...
...ARE WE GOING?

...I'VE HEARD IT'S A BEAUTIFUL PLACE!
I'VE NEVER BEEN, BUT...
VENICE. THE CITY OF WATER? HOW WONDERFUL!

THE CARNIVAL.
IT FEELS LIKE SO LONG AGO.
WELL!
SO IT'S JUST LIKE THE FIRST TIME WE DANCED, ISN'T IT?
THEY SAY THAT AT FESTIVAL TIME, EVERYONE PUTS ON MASKS TO DANCE.

To be continued in Cantarella vol. 8

JUST WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
OH MY...
THIS...
...IS INCRED-IBLE!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THE ANGEL OF SANT'ANGELO WAS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING!
THIS CAN ONLY MEAN THE WRATH OF GOD!
READY A PARTY FOR PURSUIT.

To those who cooperated in the creation of this manga: Izumi Hijiri-san, Naoko Nakatsuji-san, Chiiko In-san, Wakusa Miyakoshi-san, Kiyo-chan, Kana Kitahara-san, Koh Ozawa-san, Akiyoshi-san, Aya Kuriuta-san, Akiko Tahara-san, Kazue Shimazawa-san, my Chief Ryoka Oda-san, Y-yama-san (my manager to whom I am always a burden), all my editors, and to the people at the printing company…thank you very much.
And to all my readers out there who are kind enough to pick up this book and buy it, my deepest thanks from the bottom of my heart.

My best regards for the next volume.
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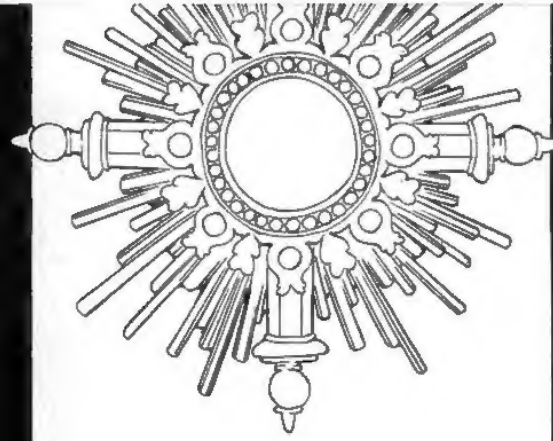
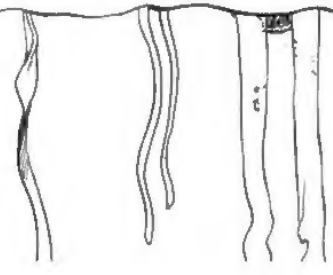


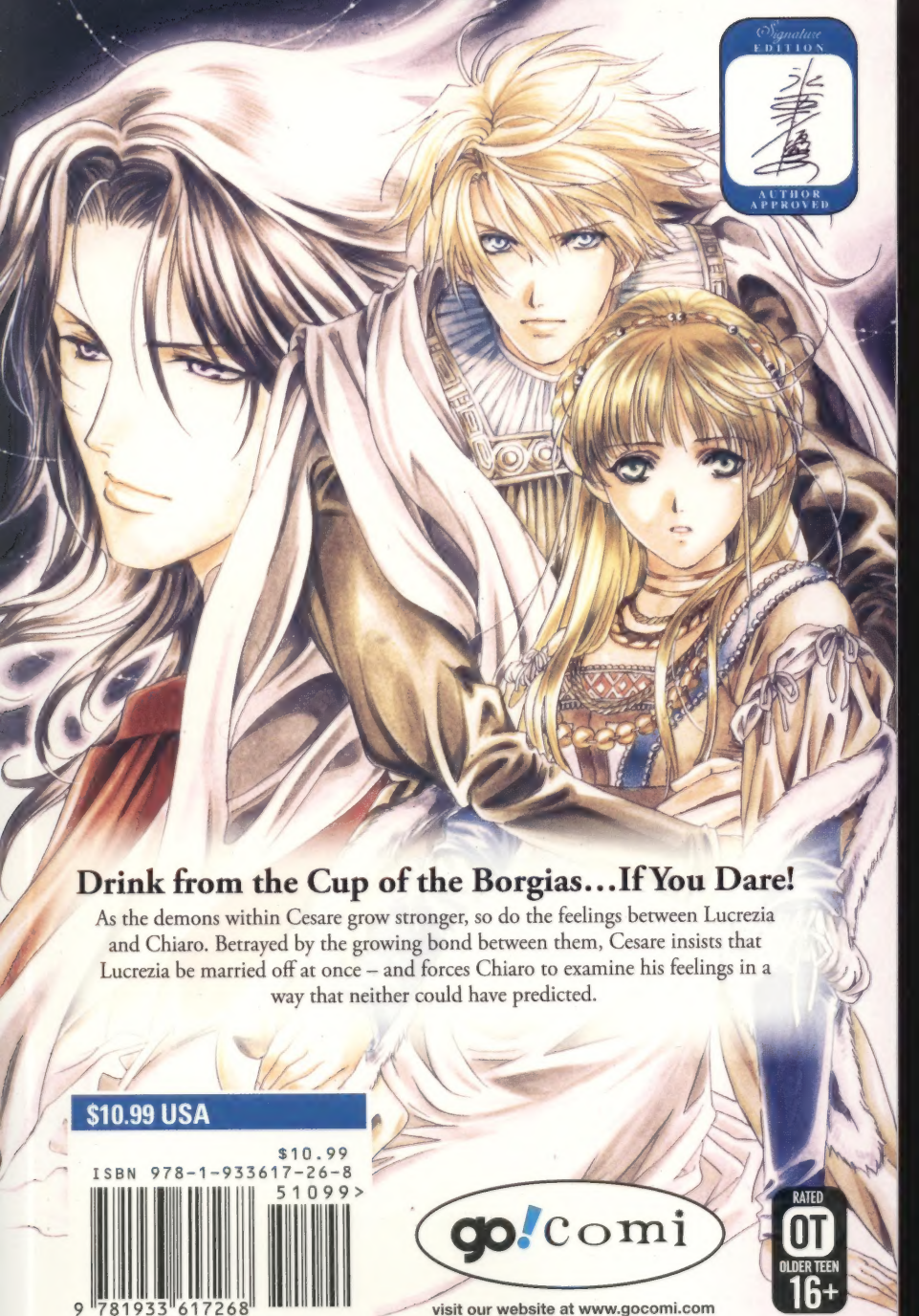
Post Script

Thank you for picking up volume 7 of "Cantarella." How did you like it?

As each volume progresses, I feel more acutely the inherent difficulty of drawing historical figures as entertainment. Recently, an offer came in from North America to have it published abroad. I've had many translated versions of my series in Asia and Europe, especially in Germany, but this is the first English adaptation that's ever been done. The thought that the people who read the things I draw on this very desk are in so many different countries fills me with a strange sensation. I find myself thinking, "If only I could pull off English…" I applied to an English-language school, but after what feels like only a few short classes, the term is already coming to an end. Woe is me...if only I'd been more diligent in my studies as a student…



In the next volume of
Cantarella
WILL VOLPE DESTROY THE ONLY ONE WHO STANDS BETWEEN CESARE AND HELL?



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